THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads in the country as National Highways. It is premature to indicate any time-frame for further declaration of National Highways. Out of total length of about 13.76 kms of Agartala Bypass, presently the work is in progress in the portion from km. 0.00 to 6.75. The physical progress on this project is 7% and it is likely to be completed by 2007.

**Setting up of National Sea Waterways body**

1569. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a National Sea Waterways body on the lines of National Highway Authority;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed plan which would connect major ports of the East and West coast; and

(c) how far this would help to improve the economy of the coastal area population?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Declaration of port channels as National Sea Waterways in a phased manner beginning with major ports and their development and maintenance through Central Government funding (on the lines of National Highways) is envisaged in the draft outline of the 'Sagar Mala' Programme as also in the draft of the Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Shipping and IWT). However, there is no proposal to set up a National Sea Waterways body.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to take up the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project to provide a direct navigable route within India's territorial waters between the country's east and west coasts, which is different from the National Sea Waterways. This project is expected to lead to the emergence of associated and ancillary industries along the coastal areas and contributes to its overall economic development.

**Road projects with NHAI**

1570. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 59,000 crores is proposed

to be earmarked for the next decade for various road projects entrusted with National Highway Authority of India;

(b) if so, details of these projects; and

(c) the details of the projects located in the State of Orissa, their estimated budgetary support and the time-frame within these would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) the Government has approved the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in two phases and entrusted its implementation to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The phase-wise cost of NHDP is as under:

| | Project | Approved Cost |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | NHDP Phase-I | Rs. 30,300/- crores (1999 prices). |
| (ii) | NHDP Phase-II | Rs. 34,339/- crores (2002 prices). |

(b) The details of NHDP Phase I and II are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) the details of the road projects in the State of Orissa entrusted with National Highways Authority of India are given in Statement-II

***Statement - I***

Details of NHDP Phase-I and II

| Name of Projects under NHDP Phase I and II | Total Length (km) |
|---|---|
| Golden Quadrilateral (connecting four metros *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) | 5846 |
| North-South & East-West corridor (connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari & Probandar to Silchar) | 7300 |
| Port Connectivity Projects (connecting major ports to NHDP) | 356 |
| Other projects | 777 |
| Total | 14279 |

***Statement -II***

*The details of projects in the State of Orissa*

| Sl. No. | Stretch | NH No. | Length | Total Project Cost (in Rs. Crore) | Likely date of completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| On Golden Quadrilateral | | | | | |
| 1 | Laxmannath-Balasore | 60 | 53.41 | 272 | December 2005 |
| 2 | Bridges Section Kharagpur-Balasore | 60 | 0.00 | 80 | December 2005 |
| 3 | Balasore-Bhadrak | 5 | 62.64 | 227.25 | December 2005 |
| 4 | Bhadrak-Chandikhole | 5 | 75.50 | 305.3 | March 2005 |
| 5 | Bridges section Balasore-Chandikhole | 5 | 11.59 | 155 | December 2005 |
| 6 | Chandikhole-Jagatpur | 5 | 27.80 | 103.35 | Completed in January 2003 |
| 7 | Jagatpur-Bhubaneswar | 5 | 28.00 | 275.13 | Completed in December 2000 |
| 8 | Bhubaneswar-Khurda | 5 | 26.30 | 140.85 | December 2005 |
| 9 | Khurda-Sunakhala | 5 | 52.06 | 189.68 | December 2005 |
| 10 | Sunakhala-Ganjam | 5 | 55.71 | 225 | June 2006 |
| 11 | Ganjam-Icchapuram | 5 | 50.80 | 256.55 | December 2006 |
| On Port Connectivity | | | | | |
| 12 | Paradip port connectivity | 5A | 77.00 | 428 | February 2007 |

**Attitude of NHAI towards NGOs**

1571. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI gives more respect and consideration to contractors doing business with it than the public spirited citizens;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI does not heed requests for rectifications and changes from NGOs and noted people working in the field of road safety;